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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Canine Unit Commander**

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### **New K-9 Joins the Ranks of the Riverside Police Department**

**RIVERSIDE, CA** - In September 2012 the Riverside Police Department's K-9 Team welcomed a new police dog to their specialized unit. Unfortunately, Officer Brad Smith's last K-9 partner "ROCCO" developed an unexpected medical condition that required the K-9 be retired after four years of devoted service.



The sudden retirement required the K-9 Team to evaluate new dogs at Adlerhorst Kennel. They searched for a qualified dog worthy to be used in police work and to become Officer Smith's partner. After a careful testing process, a three-year-old Belgian Malinois named "ROY" was selected to join the K-9 corps. Officer Brad Smith and his new partner endured a rigorous training course at the facility. They both recently graduated and returned to the streets in late September.

Sergeant Patrick McCarthy supervises the canine program and expressed mixed emotions. "I am sad when one of our devoted dogs becomes sick and needs to be retired; but, I am happy that we are able to maintain our program and get another highly trained dog to serve this city." McCarthy said. "ROY" has been assigned to the evening shift working with Officer Brad Smith.

The Canine Unit Commander, Lieutenant Chuck Griffitts said, "I am proud to welcome our newest dog to the program and am content to see retired K-9 "ROCCO" enjoy his retirement in the love and care of the Smith family."